

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL  
1998 JOHNS FELLOWSHIP AWARD-  
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### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize John Fee as he is honored by the San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council at the September 19, 1998 John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet for his contributions to the labor movement, his community and to the nation.

John Fee, a Chicago native, has been an active and involved member of his community since early in his life. In high school, he participated in the football and cross country athletic programs, and, at age seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Navy. Fee's twenty year career in the Navy involved operation and maintenance of Naval nuclear power plants and service on nuclear submarines, cruisers and aircraft carriers. It was during his service in the Navy that he earned an undergraduate degree in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration.

John is an avid traveller and has visited every continent. He planted a U.S. flag during a visit to the North Pole and assisted the Russian Government with building a nuclear power plant.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1984, John went to work at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in San Diego County and currently serves as its Maintenance Manager. John is responsible for maintenance of the dual reactor plants and supporting systems, and in this capacity, has developed a close relationship with members of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades by relying on them for their skills and expertise.

John has been instrumental in improving the safe working conditions at the SONGS site and has kept the interest of the building trades membership balanced with the multitude of challenges as the electric utility industry goes through the process of deregulation.

John Fee exemplifies the high values, standards and principles of the work of the late John S. Lyons in community service and it truly deserving of the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council's 1998 Johns Fellowship Award.

### AZERBAIJAN ELECTIONS

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on October 11, presidential elections will take place in Azerbaijan. At the moment, the leading opposition parties are boycotting the election, largely because of continuing disagreements with the government over the composition of the Central Election Commission. They have embarked on a series of rallies and demonstrations, and the atmosphere in Baku has become quite tense. In fact, Reuters has re-

ported from the opposition that about 100 people were hurt on Saturday during a long rally in the capital's city center.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) has observers in Azerbaijan in preparation for the October election. According to NDI's statement, "NDI representatives witnessed the attempts of political parties to conduct a publicly-announced rally. The rally was obstructed by police and others who used violence against the demonstrators to prevent a public gathering and disperse them . . . NDI condemns the use of violence by police and others against demonstrators. Such actions violate the Azerbaijani Constitution's guarantees of the rights of free assembly and expression. They raise substantial doubts about whether the official respect for law and dissent that are indispensable for democratic elections exist in Azerbaijan."

Against this background, five Members of the Helsinki Commission, of which I am Co-Chairman, recently sent a letter to President Aliiev, urging him to continue talks with the opposition and find a formula that would permit broad participation in the election. I would like to enter the full text of that letter into the RECORD.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE,  
*Washington, DC, August 25, 1998.*

His Excellency HEYDAR ALIEV  
*President, Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, Azerbaijan*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The Helsinki Commission has been closely monitoring the preparations for the October 11 presidential election in Azerbaijan. This election is particularly significant and will have major ramifications both on your country's democratization and on the prospects for peace in the Caucasus region.

After years of mutual suspicion and recriminations between the government and the opposition, the upcoming election offers a chance for reconciliation and the establishment of much-needed consensus within Azerbaijani society. An election deemed free and fair by Azerbaijanis and international observers will endow the government with unquestioned legitimacy and help to undo the consequences of the flawed parliamentary election of November 1995.

Moreover, a process of government-opposition reconciliation in Azerbaijan is essential to facilitate a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Though the 1994 cease fire remains in effect, the peace process, unfortunately, has bogged down. In order to restart the negotiations, the parties to the conflict will have to make difficult choices, which will not be politically feasible without strong backing from their electorates.

It is therefore all the more regrettable that major Azerbaijani opposition parties have not found it possible to take part in the election. We recognize that the election law originally passed by parliament, which the opposition found unacceptable, has been substantially modified over the last few months, with input from experts at the OSCE/ODIHR and the National Democratic Institute. Various demands put forward by the opposition have been met. Particularly important was the recent announcement of the abolition of censorship, which, we hope, will be consistently implemented, and will, in fact, signal the end of all political censorship in Azerbaijan.

We commend your willingness to make these changes in the law, and your pledge to hold free and fair elections, in accord with OSCE commitments. Nevertheless, the opposition boycott remains in effect, primarily

because of continued differences over the composition of the Central Election Commission. A presidential election without the leading opposition parties—no matter how many other candidates take part—will not promote stability to resolve the most pressing issues facing Azerbaijan at this historic juncture. With the election now less than two months away, very little time remains to reach agreement. We urge you to redouble your efforts and continue the negotiations which your representatives have already begun with opposition leaders to find a mutually acceptable formula that will permit broad participation in the election.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,  
M.C.,  
Co-Chairman.  
FRANK R. WOLF, M.C.,  
Commissioner.  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, M.C.,  
Commissioner.  
ALFONSE D'AMATO, U.S.S.,  
Chairman.  
STENY H. HOYER, M.C.,  
Ranking Member.

### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD C. SMITH

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the American Dream is alive and flourishing. If you do not believe it, just examine the life of Eddie Smith of Lexington, North Carolina.

Eddie celebrated his 80th birthday on September 13, with 400 friends, dancing to the beat of his favorite beach music. Smith might be one of the few octogenarians around who scuba dives, races Ferraris, and flies his own plane.

Eddie Smith was born in Wake County, North Carolina. Orphaned at the age of 10, he was brought to Lexington with his sister and two brothers to live at the Junior Order Orphanage. After graduation in 1937, he remained in Lexington where he began working as an usher at the Carolina Theater, and it was there that he met his future wife, Sarah Lanier.

After his job at the Carolina Theater, Eddie drove a taxicab before starting his own business, National Wholesale Company in 1952. As his business prospered, Eddie shared his good fortune with the community that helped to raise him. He has served as Mayor of Lexington, on the City Council, as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of Davidson County Community College, Chairman of First Union National Bank, and Chairman of Lexington Memorial Hospital.

An eternal optimist and visionary, Smith refused to see the old Carolina Theater become a pornographic theater and led an effort to restore the building and create one of the most beautiful Civic Centers in our state. He has been Chairman of the Civic Center, which is named in his honor, for 20 years. He is presently chairing a fund drive to further renovate the Civic Center to make it a state-of-the-art facility.

An inveterate jogger, Smith found a woman in the street, on one of his early morning jogs, who had run away from an abusive husband during the night after being severely beaten. After hours of trying to find a shelter for this